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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,910	07/25/2003	James E. Staargaard	GVC.00001US	3459
23399 7590 07/21/2009 REISING ETHINGTON P.C. P O BOX 4390 TROY, MI 48099-4390			EXAMINER NORDMEYER, PATRICIA L	
			ART UNIT 1794	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/21/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/627,910	<b>Applicant(s)</b> STAARGAARD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Patricia L. Nordmeyer	<b>Art Unit</b> 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Art Unit: 1794

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Reopening of Prosecution***

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on June 8, 2009, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

/David R. Sample/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an

Art Unit: 1794

international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 22, 24 and 29 - 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cooper (USPN 6,644,722).

Cooper discloses an integral plastic and metal part (Figures) comprising: a metal component having a closed cross section defining an interior and exterior (Figures 1 and 2, #12; Column 3, lines 13 – 37) and having a first opening defining edges and a second opening opposite said first opening (Figure 4, #60 and 63) for allowing a core tool to be inserted into said interior of said metal component during a molding operation (Column 7, lines 24 – 32); and a plastic component disposed about at least a portion of said exterior of said metal component (Figure 4, #15), a portion of said plastic material disposed through said first opening and including a flange extending beyond said edges of said first opening and into said interior of said metal component for securing said plastic component to said metal component (Figure 4, #15 and 66), said plastic component not covering said second opening (Figure 4, #60); wherein said plastic component includes at least one integrally formed connection member extending outwardly therefrom, said at least one connection member having an area defining at least one connection portion formed therein, wherein said at least one connection portion is operable to receive a fastening member so as to permit said plastic component to be fastened to at least one other component (Column 6, lines 20 - 27) as in claim 22. Regarding claim 23, the flange is rectangular (Figure 4, #66). For claim 29, said edge of said first opening is curved (Figure 4, #54). With regard to claim 30, said flange extends beyond said curved edge of said first opening (Figure 4, #66). As in claim 31, said second opening is defined by a second edge in said metal

Art Unit: 1794

component, said second edge being folded (Figures, wherein the metal edges can have multiple shapes as shown). Regarding claim 32, said plastic part includes attachment holes therethrough (Column 6, lines 20 – 27). As in claim 33, said first opening comprises a series of openings (Column 7, lines 34 – 36).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper (USPN 6,644,722) in view of Palmer et al. (USPN 6,708,583).

Cooper discloses an integral plastic and metal part (Figures) comprising: a metal component having a closed cross section defining an interior and exterior (Figures 1 and 2, #12; Column 3, lines 13 – 37) and having a first opening defining edges and a second opening opposite said first opening (Figure 4, #60 and 63) for allowing a core tool to be inserted into said interior of said metal component during a molding operation (Column 7, lines 24 – 32); and a plastic component disposed about at least a portion of said exterior of said metal component (Figure 4, #15), a portion of said plastic material disposed through said first opening and including a flange extending beyond said edges of said first opening and into said interior of said metal component for securing said plastic component to said metal component (Figure 4, #15

Art Unit: 1794

and 66), said plastic component not covering said second opening (Figure 4, #60); wherein said plastic component includes at least one integrally formed connection member extending outwardly therefrom, said at least one connection member having an area defining at least one connection portion formed therein, wherein said at least one connection portion is operable to receive a fastening member so as to permit said plastic component to be fastened to at least one other component (Column 6, lines 20 - 27). However, Cooper fails to disclose said plastic part includes ribs.

Palmer et al. teaches a shaft support made of plastic containing ribs (Abstract) for the purpose of providing reinforcement to the shell of the structure (Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to have provided plastic ribs in Cooper in order to provide reinforcement to the shell of the structure as taught by Palmer et al.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments, filed June 8, 2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 22, 24, 26 and 29 - 33 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Cooper and Palmer et al.

Art Unit: 1794

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Nordmeyer whose telephone number is (571)272-1496. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Patricia L. Nordmeyer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1794

/Patricia L. Nordmeyer/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794